

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-3, 6, 7, 10, and 12 will be pending in the present application. Claims 4, 5, 8, 9, and 11 have been cancelled.

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 5 and 8 represent patentable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable claim 5, and independent claim 6 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable claim 8. Thus, independent claims 1 and 6 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Independent claims 10 and 12 have also been amended to include language corresponding to that of allowable claims 5 or 8. Thus, independent claims 10 and 12 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Likewise, claims 2-3 and 7 are also believed to be in condition for allowance due to their dependency from independent claim 1 or 6.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,341,214 to Wong ("the '214 patent"). In addition, claims 2-4, 6, 7, and 9-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over the '214 patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,369,387 to Eckles ("the '387 patent"). Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection has been rendered moot due to the inclusion of the subject matter of allowable dependent claim 5 or 8 into independent claims 1, 6, 10, and 12 and the cancellation of claim 9. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the above rejection of claims 1-4, 6, 7, and 9-12 be withdrawn.

All objections and rejections have been addressed. It is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to the effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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